



CANADA REVENUE
AGENCY

AGENCE DU REVENU
DU CANADA

REGISTERED MAIL

Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service
490 Dutton Drive, Unit C5
Waterloo ON N2L 6H7

Attention: Richard L. Benner – Editor/Publisher

July 23, 2012

**Subject: Reminder Letter for
 Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service (the Organization)**

Dear Mr. Benner:

As you know, along with the many advantages and privileges of being a registered charity in Canada come a number of obligations under the *Income Tax Act*, its *Regulations* and the common law. We are writing at this time to remind you of the limitations imposed on registered charities in regards to partisan political activities under subsections 149.1(6.1) and (6.2) of the Act.

Registered charities must comply with the rules and *Regulations* set out in the *Income Tax Act* and its *Regulations*. The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) regulates registered charities and is committed to ensuring that charities operate in compliance with the law.

It has come to our attention that recent issues of the Organization's monthly periodical, entitled "Canadian Mennonite", have contained editorials and/or articles that appear to promote opposition to a political party, or to candidates for public office.

Under the Act, charities are allowed to engage in some political activities, but are prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities. Such partisan activities involve the "*direct or indirect support of, or opposition to, any political party or candidate for public office*". Further clarification regarding partisan political activities can be found on our website at <http://www.cra.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/chrts/plcy/dvsry-eng.html>.

Registered charities that engage in partisan political activities jeopardize their charitable status and can be subject to revocation. However, in this circumstance we felt a reminder letter was in order.

Further information on this and other related topics is publicly available on our website at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/chrts/prtng/menu-eng.html>.

We hope the information provided will serve to clarify the rules under which charities agree to operate when they are granted charitable status. We trust that the Organization will take appropriate action to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act.

Should you have any questions regarding these matters or have any questions about our policies, you may contact the undersigned at the numbers indicated below.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul E. Fournier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "F".

Paul E. Fournier
Office Audit Officer
Compliance Division
Charities Directorate
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